Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Original) A method for preparing a solid support material for carrying out a chemical reaction, said method comprising the following steps:

(i) reacting an amino functionalised solid material with a carboxylic acid having at least two similarly protected amino groups to form amide bonds between them,

(ii) removing protecting groups in a single step,

(iii) optionally repeating steps (i) and (ii) one or more times using the product of the preceding step as the amino functionalised solid material, and

(iv) connecting a linkage agent to at least some of the free NH_2 groups of the product.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the said carboxylic acid comprises an amino acid.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein the amino acid is lysine or ornithine.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the amino functionalised solid material is obtained by reacting an acid or ester substituted support with a compound of formula (X)

$$H_2N\text{-}[(R^8)_zNH)]_y(R^{8'})_x\text{-}NH_2$$

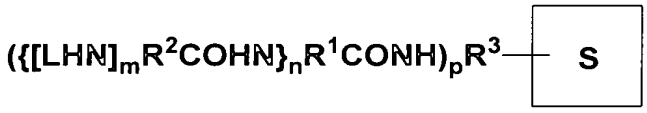
(X)

where x is an integer of 2 or more, y is 0 or an integer of 1 or more, and each group z is independently 2 or more, and each R^8 and $R^{8'}$ are the same or different and are optionally substituted divalent hydrocarbyl groups.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4 wherein the compound of formula (X) is ethylenediamine.

6. (Currently amended) A solid support material obtainable by the method of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1.

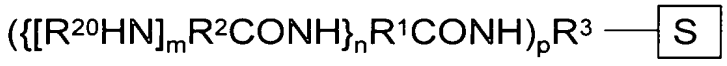
7. (Currently amended) A solid support material comprising a compound of formula (IX)



~~[IX]~~ (IX)

wherein S is a solid polymer core;
R^1 is a organic moiety with n + 1 available points for bonding:
R^2 is an organic moiety with m + 1 available points for bonding;
R^3 is either a bond or an organic bridging group;
L is a linkage agent, or a protected form thereof;
p is an integer of 1 or more, provided that p is 1 when R^3 is a bond; and
n and m are independently selected from integers of 2 or more.

8. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (XIII)



~~XIII~~ (XIII)

wherein ~~S, R^1, R^2, n, m and p are as defined in claim 7~~
S is a solid polymer core;
R^1 is a organic moiety with n + 1 available points for bonding:
R^2 is an organic moiety with m + 1 available points for bonding;
p is an integer of 1 or more, provided that p is 1 when R^3 is a bond; and

n and m are independently selected from integers of 2 or more,

R^3 is either a bond or an organic bridging group formed by reaction of acid or ester functionalities at the surface of S with an amine of formula (X)

$$H_2N\text{-}[(R^8)_zNH)]_y(R^{8'})_x\text{-}NH_2$$

(X)

where x is an integer of 2 or more, y is 0 or an integer of 1 or more, each group z is independently 2 or more, and each R^8 and $R^{8'}$ are the same or different and are optionally substituted divalent hydrocarbyl groups and R^{20} is hydrogen or an amino protecting group.

9. (Original) A method for preparing a compound, which method comprises binding a reagent to a linkage agent of a support material according to claim 6 or claim 7, effecting one or more reaction steps to generate product, and thereafter cleaving said product from the support material.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein the product is a therapeutic peptide.

11. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein the therapeutic peptide is

Phv-Ala-Arg-Ala-Lactam-Ala-Arg-Ala-Papa-NH_2

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein Phv is a residue derived from 5-phenylvaleric acid and Papa is a residue derived from 4-aminophenyl acetic acid.

12. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a peptide which comprises coupling a protected amino acid to a linkage agent immobilised on a solid support, deprotecting the amino acid and thereafter coupling a further protected amino acid to said first amino acid and repeating said process until the desired peptide is produced, and thereafter cleaving the peptide from the solid support, ~~characterised in that, where~~ wherein the amino acid is a protected 4-aminophenyl acetic acid (PAPA), the coupling agent is 2-(1H-benzotriazole-1-

yl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium tetrafluoroborate (TBTU) and the coupling is effected in the presence of diisopropylethylamine (DIPEA).

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein for couplings where the amino acid is other than a protected 4-aminophenyl acetic acid (PAPA) a coupling reagent comprising a carbodiimide is employed in the presence of a compound that forms an active ester.

14. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 12 or 13, wherein the solid support comprises a solid support material ~~according to claim 6 or claim 7~~ for carrying out a chemical reaction, and prepared by a method comprising the following steps:

(i) reacting an amino functionalised solid material with a carboxylic acid having at least two similarly protected amino groups to form amide bonds between them,

(ii) removing protecting groups in a single step,

(iii) optionally repeating steps (i) and (ii) one or more times using the product of the preceding step as the amino functionalised solid material, and

(iv) connecting a linkage agent to at least some of the free NH_2 groups of the product.

15. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein the carboxylic acid in step (i) comprises an amino acid.

16. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein the amino acid is lysine or ornithine.

17. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein the amino functionalised solid material is obtained by reacting an acid or ester substituted support with a compound of formula (X)

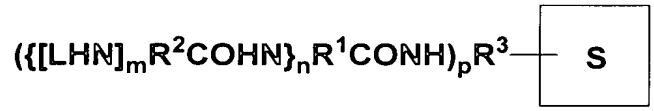
$$H_2N\text{-}[(R^8)_zNH)]_y(R^{8'})_x\text{-}NH_2$$

(X)

where x is an integer of 2 or more, y is 0 or an integer of 1 or more, and each group z is independently 2 or more, and each R^8 and $R^{8'}$ are the same or different and are optionally substituted divalent hydrocarbyl groups.

18. (New) A method according to claim 17, wherein the compound of formula (X) is ethylenediamine.

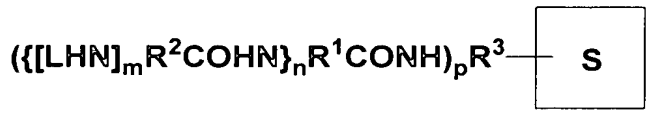
19. (New) A method according to claim 12, wherein the solid support comprises a solid support material comprising a compound of formula (IX)



(IX)

wherein S is a solid polymer core;
R^1 is a organic moiety with n + 1 available points for bonding:
R^2 is an organic moiety with m + 1 available points for bonding;
R^3 is either a bond or an organic bridging group;
L is a linkage agent, or a protected form thereof;
p is an integer of 1 or more, provided that p is 1 when R^3 is a bond; and
n and m are independently selected from integers of 2 or more.

20. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein the solid support comprises a solid support material comprising a compound of formula (IX)



(IX)

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R^2 is an organic moiety with m + 1 available points for bonding;
R^3 is either a bond or an organic bridging group;
L is a linkage agent, or a protected form thereof;

p is an integer of 1 or more, provided that p is 1 when R^3 is a bond; and
n and m are independently selected from integers of 2 or more.

21. (New) A solid support obtained by the method of claim 2.

22. (New) A solid support obtained by the method of claim 3.

23. (New) A solid support obtained by the method of claim 4.

24. (New) A solid support obtained by the method of claim 5.

25. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein step (iii) is carried out at least one time.